Rekhta

Rekhta (Urdu: ريختر), ['reːx.t̪ə], Hindi: रेख्ना, ['reːxt̪ɑː]) was the Hindustani language as its dialectal basis shifted to the Delhi dialect. This style evolved in both the Perso-Arabic and Devanagari scripts and is considered an early form of Urdu and Hindi. [2]

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Origin and usage

Rekhti

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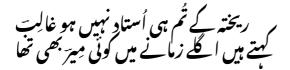
Origin and usage

Rekhta means "scattered" but also "mixed" and implies that it contained Persian.^[3] Rekhta is a very versatile vernacular, and can grammatically change to adapt to Persian grammar, without sounding odd to the reader.^[4]

Rekhta	
Region	South Asia
Era	term for Hindustani, 17th–18th centuries
Language family	Indo-European
	Indo-Iranian
	■ Indo-Aryan
	Central Zone
	Western Hindi
	Hindustani
	Rekhta
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	_
Glottolog	rekh1239 (http://glot
	tolog.org/resource/la nguoid/id/rekh1239) ^[1]

The term Rekhta was in greatest use from the late 17th century until the late 18th century, when it was largely supplanted by *Hindi/Hindwi (Hindavi)* and later by *Hindustani* and *Urdu*, though it continued to be used sporadically until the late 19th century. Rekhta-style poetry (poetry using a mixed, off-Urdu language) is still produced today by Urdu speakers, and is in fact the most common linguistic form of writing poetry in the Urdu language. Rekhta was also used for forms of poetry like <u>Masnavi</u>, <u>Marsia</u>, <u>Qaseedah</u>, <u>Thumri</u>, <u>Jikri</u> (Zikri), <u>Geet</u>, <u>Chaupai</u> and *Kabit*.

The following popular <u>sher</u> by <u>Mirza Ghalib</u> also tells us that the linguistic term *rekhta* was extended in 19th-century North India to poetry written in the "rekhta" vernacular (as opposed to poetry written in Persian, then considered the classical language):



Rekhta ke tum hī ustād nahī \dot{n} ho \dot{q} hālib,

(Translation: You are not the sole grandmaster of Rekhta, Ghalib)

 $K\varepsilon$ hte hai \dot{n} agle zamāne me \dot{n} koī 'mīr' bhī thā

(Translation: They say, in the ages past, that there was one [called] Mir)

Rekhti

The grammatically feminine counterpart of *rekhta* is *rekhti*, a term first popularized by the eighteenth-century poet Sa'adat Yar Khan 'Rangin' to designate verses written in the colloquial speech of women. The Lucknow poet Insha Allah Khan 'Insha' was another well-known poet who composed *rekhtis*, according to Urdu scholar C M Naim.

See also

- Persian and Urdu
- Hindustani language
- History of the Urdu language
- Urdu poetry
- Dobhashi

References

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- "Rekhta: Poetry in Mixed Language, The Emergence of Khari Boli Literature in North India" (htt p://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/workshop2012/bangha_rekhta.pdf) (PDF). Columbia University. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20160328003510/http://www.columbia.edu/itc/mealac/pritchett/00urduhindilinks/workshop2012/bangha_rekhta.pdf) (PDF) from the original on 28 March 2016. Retrieved 23 April 2018.
- 3. Hindustani (2005). <u>Keith Brown</u> (ed.). <u>Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics</u> (2 ed.). Elsevier. ISBN 0-08-044299-4.
- 4. UCLA Language Materials Project: Urdu (http://www.lmp.ucla.edu/Profile.aspx?LangID=101& menu=004)

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